

AMA**Association of Midland Artists**
www.midlandartists.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

March 2012

Dear Members,

We have been delighted to welcome **Moira Lamont** on to **the Committee**, as most of you know, Moira is an printer and was Head of Art for many years at Tudor Hall School, since she joined the AMA last year she has been a keen participant in all we have done and I am sure will be full of ideas for us.

We have two meetings this month as you will see below, both of which promise to be very interesting. **Viv Hunt, a stained glass artist and maker and Phyllis Davies, who's paintings and textiles are influence by the colour and atmosphere of Venice.** Please do not forget that **the MORNING MEETING IS ON TUESDAY** and we look forward to seeing everyone again.

We have been invited to hang our work at **Fosters Frames Gallery in Stratford.** We have arranged **to exhibit from 17th April to 15th May**, this will cover Shakespeare's Birthday, when the town is busy and also the May Bank Holiday. Fosters are a well established company. The Gallery has two windows on to Greenhill St. which runs in to the Alcester Road. It is a bright well lit space which, though a working environment, with types of frame also on the walls, will hold roughly the number of works we normally hang. Jane Williams and I went to discuss the details last Tuesday and there was a continual stream of people coming in. Fosters will take 20% of sales and there will be the usual charge per picture to cover the cost of flyers and publicity materials etc. This is a sales environment, keenly and efficiently run. They will move the work round to put different pieces in the windows and pieces sold can be replaced. It's an interesting chance for us and the Entry Form with all the details will be sent out shortly.

The Old Library.

You will have received a copy of the Press Release, which Tammy Woodrow has sent out with it's amusing and eye catching photo. Katharine behind the camera again I guess. I have not been able to see the hanging yet but I am told it is another good selection of our work.

You will have seen there has been a lot in the Press about the future of the site, we are keeping a careful eye on what is happening and will discontinue the hang if there are any problems.

Warwickshire Open Studios.

As mentioned in the last letter the new and very smart website is now up and running. **Registration has commenced and must be completed by 18th March. Several members have found it takes an hour or so to register, so do allow plenty of time.**

The AMA has a problem as to how to take part.

We know that a great many of you and most of the Committee have their own Studios Open and want to put all your energies in to this and any spare time visiting other artist's studios.

However, we feel there will be some of you who do not have suitable spaces to open and would like to take part in a group exhibition at Holy Trinity Church. We would need a commitment that you would be willing to help with the hanging, if required and definitely with manning, if at all possible..

*****Len has sent round a questionnaire for you to fill in and return to us by March 9th to give us an idea of your requirements.*****

EXHIBITIONS

**If you have some time to spare the following exhibitions are on locally:-
Herbert Art Gallery – Turner Prize nominee- George Shaw until 11th March.**

The Mead, Warwick University – Indiscipline of Painting – Mon _ Sat. 12 – 9pm. until 10th March

Leamington Art Gallery – Henry Moore from the Arts Council Collection. Until 15th April.



MEETINGS:

TUESDAY 4 MARCH 10pm.

Satchell Room, The Baptist Church, side entrance, Charnos Street,
Leamington Spa

VIV HUNT – STAINED GLASS ARTIST AND MAKER.

THURSDAY 29TH MARCH 7pm for 7.30pm

**TALK at UPSTAIRS ROOM, ODDFELLOWS HALL, 6, CLARENCE
TERRACE, WARWICK STREET, LEAMINGTON SPA, CV32 5LD.
PHYLLIS DAVIES - PAINTINGS AND TEXTILE ARTIST.**

REVIEWS.

Jane Williams has written a short Review of **Grace Newman's** very good and interesting talk last month and **Anne Cole** has written a short Review of an exhibition celebrating the work of **Sven Berlin**, a distant relative of hers. I have not put in websites, as it is best to Google him, there is a lot of information and also a selection of images. I would have loved to have downloaded some to brighten up the letter, but am not sure if copyright allows this.

If you have not seen Anne's work, do look it up on our website. I think there is a similarity, and if you visit her Studio in Kineton, which is always full of work you will see that like Sven, she turns her hand to many things, stage scenery included, in a colourful – well just the way she describes him painting!!

Anne Cole writes.....about Sven Berlin. 1911- 1999

I had hoped to go to the Metropolitan Museum of Fine Art in New York, to see over 200 works of Willem de Kooning, last November but we only got as far as Lymington in Hampshire.

We visited the St. Barbes Gallery, where a celebration of Sven Berlin's life in pictures was being shown. Sven was a bohemian artist; an adagio dancer in the music halls; an artist at St. Ives 1940-1950; a soldier and an artist, writer and poet in the New Forest.

The added interest for me was that he was a distant cousin of my Swedish mother.

The exhibition celebrated the centenary of his birth and showed the development throughout his years as a dancer; his wartime experiences, his time in St Ives and subsequent exile from that art scene to live alongside the gypsies in the New Forest. Followed by his escape to the Isle of Wight and finally to Wimbourne, Dorset.

His works are in the Tate and V&A, British Museum and Imperial War Museum.

He was indeed, a colourful and multi-talented figure and the exhibition explored his tenacious search for personal truth through oil paintings, watercolours, pen and inks, sculpture and intriguing ephemera. The paintings on show highlighted his draughtsmanship, flamboyant application of colour and paint and his ability to capture the spirit of his subjects.

In the New Forest Sven rebuilt his artistic life painting, writing and studying wild life.

All creatures including insects with their delicate structure fascinated him but arguably none more than fish, about whose submarine life there is always a remaining mystery.

His book 'Jonah's Dream' has been compared to Melville's 'Moby Dick', appealing to anglers and non- anglers alike. His other books include 'Alfred Wallis – Primitive', 'I am Lazarus', a war book. 'The Dark Monarch' about St. Ives painters and Sven Berlin – autosvenograph – 'The Coat of Many Colours. Anne Cole.

Jane Williams writes.....

FEBRUARY MEETING

Grace Newman

Grace's work is powerfully driven by the experience of her illness. Suffering from kidney failure, she managed to arrange dialysis at home which meant that she could fit her interest in art in around the frequent sessions. She had always enjoyed art at school so after coming out of hospital she enrolled on a watercolour class followed by the 2 yr part time Access course at Warwickshire College. Before the end of the course she had a successful transplant operation.

After recovering she enrolled on 2 year Dip HE course. As her painting started to become more three dimensional she realised that sculpture was what interested her most. She started to tackle the subject of her illness now she was far enough away from the experience to see it more objectively. Abstract corridor paintings evoking those endless corridors in hospital was followed by experimentation with using medical instruments to create sculptures. Particularly successful was her final year piece of a really comfy looking bed but when you looked closer you found it was created out of 4080 hypodermic syringes and needles pointing upwards. After leaving University she volunteered to work with LSA to get to know the arts scene. Her work started to take on a less personal theme, more about general health issues – babies in incubators, recycled human parts, male fertility and ego. In 2006 she participated in Artsweek with a flying figure representing Wellbeing suspended in outpatients. Her Paradise Fish costume won 2nd place in the **MadUk** competition, a model successfully wearing it whilst walking in the Carnival through Coventry. She has worked in schools and currently teaches

people with disabilities Painting for Pleasure at the Westbury Centre. She will be exhibiting in this year's Warwickshire Open Studios in the Art Room at Rugby Art Gallery

With great energy and enthusiasm Grace started up Warwickshire Artists as an online art gallery for professional artists living in Warwickshire. The membership now numbers 60. She also organises exhibitions locally as well as in France – these are open to any members of Warwickshire Artists. Check out the website www.warwickshireartists.co.uk for details of what they do and how to join.

Grace is a hugely imaginative installation artist with something to say about humanity. We look forward to hearing more from her about her more recent work.

Jane Williams

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